

8th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carers,

You may be aware that in the last couple of weeks we have spent some time talking with our students about personal safety.

You may also be aware that in the last couple of weeks in Isleworth and in Hounslow that there have been some issues with local young people who attend alternative provision and also, with some young people who are not attending school being verbally abusive.

I would like to take the opportunity to assure you that Bolder Academy is taking significant measures to ensure student and staff safety. They include:

- Working very closely with the school-based police officer, PC Verma and his manager. PC Verma has assured me that there will be an increased presence in the local area.
- Raising issues about the local area with the Chief Superintendent.
- Speaking with all students and staff about personal safety including travelling to and from the Academy. Today, I ask PC Verma to talk to all students and staff about this.
- Working in partnership with the Headteacher from the alternative provision who has assured me that there will be increased staff presence around their school site.
- Reviewing the Academy security and grounds. We are satisfied that all measures have been taken to ensure site security.
- Relocating, for an interim period, PE lessons from Old Isleworthians to the Academy playground until we have seen a physical increase in police presence and staff presence at Woodbridge.
- Talking with local residents about reporting to the police any unusual activity.

It is important to emphasise that student and staff safety is always our number one priority and that we are constantly reviewing our procedures and ways of working to ensure this. You can play your part in maximising student personal safety by supporting us with the following aspects:

- **Road safety** – We are aware that parents / carers are continuing to park on Wood Lane and also Ash drive. We also have a number of parents/carers who stand directly outside the school gate. This makes it exceptionally difficult for our duty staff to ensure students are able to use the paths and that they move quickly to the bus stops. It also means that we do not have visibility up and down Wood Lane with oncoming traffic and cannot support the students crossing the road. Please can I ask that parents meet their children on London Road or further up Wood Lane to ease congestion – not directly by the school gate and/or, not to park near the Academy. I would also ask that you talk with your child about road safety in terms of looking at traffic and potential hazards, many appear to be looking at their phones when walking.
- **Bike safety** – If your child is coming to the Academy on a bike they must wear a helmet and have lights on their bike. I am afraid that we are now in position where we will be saying to students that unless these are in place they will not be able to bring their bike on to site.
- **Social Media Safety** – Like all schools nationally, some of our students are engaging with social media sites which are not suitable and / or engaging with large group chats. This is not safe and potentially cause significant issues. As an experienced school leader I know that allegations of bullying often stem from these types of activities and occur outside of the school day. We therefore ask that all parents / carers regular review their child's mobile phone and the conversations that they are having on them, as well as who they are 'befriending.' A reminder that we are a National Online Safety school. This means parents can access a number of resources to support them in talking to their child about safety issues.

I want to thank you in advance of your support in each of these matters and if you would like to contact me please do.

Finally, a reminder that we will be running a series of workshops on the 31st October from 3.30pm – 6pm on internet safety and personal safety so please do feel free to join us then.

Kind regards

Heidi Swidenbank
Headteacher